UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Monday, April 15, 2024

Comments on Department Statements



As blog readers will know, the Regents have twice debated the issue of departmental political statements on UC websites. At the last regular Regents meeting, the issue was put off until May to give the Academic Senate more time to solicit comments on proposed Regental regulation of such statements.

The Academic Senate has put out a call for comments by April 22. Comments received will be discussed at the Academic Council on April 24. If you have a comment, send it to:

SenateReview@ucop.edu.

Source: https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/underreview/regents-policy-on-public-and-discretionary-statements-by-academic-units-senate-review.pdf.

Note: When you send comments to the systemwide email address above, you may receive a response saying you should send your comment through your campus Senate office. Clicking on the departmental statement option on the UCLA campus Senate website currently gives an error message. I suggest you try the general UCLA Senate address:

senateoffice@senate.ucla.edu.

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- FAQs for Senate Faculty about Possible Strike by UAW May 2024
- CUCFA Statement On Campus Protests
- We Support BOARS Math Requirements Recommendation
- Support AB-2349 – The Cal-Bridge Program
- Drop the Charges Against January Regents' Meeting Protestors

Remaking the University

- The Authoritarian Personality Comes to College - 5/2/2024
- The New McCarthyism Intensifies - 4/30/2024
- THE STRIKE - 12/6/2022

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

Search This Blog

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM No comments: 

Labels: academic freedom, UC Regents

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Possible VP Jam



A long article in the LA Times yesterday indicates VP Harris and her husband are in Brentwood today and will be leaving tomorrow (Monday). In the past, there have been traffic problems in the UCLA area due to motorcades when such visits occur:

Harris and Emhoff are expected to spend Sunday at their Brentwood home before the vice president heads to Nevada on Monday.

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2024-04-13/harris-hammers-trump-on-abortion-in-surprise-los-angeles-appearance.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 8:24 AM No comments: 

Labels: traffic, UCLA

Hawaii vs. Chile

Yours truly keeps track of TMT developments but somehow missed the information below. TMT, of which UC is a partner, is competing with a Chilean telescope project for NSF funding and it appears that only one project will be funded. The Chilean telescope construction is already underway, while TMT is stalled by state politics in Hawaii over concerns by native Hawaiians, as blog readers will know. From Science Policy News:

The National Science Foundation's governing board has set a $1.6 billion ceiling on the agency's potential contribution of construction funding for the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) and/or the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT). The decision, announced on Feb. 27, implies that NSF is unlikely to fund construction of both telescopes. In particular, the board has asked NSF to report back by May on "its plan to select which of the two candidate telescopes the agency plans to continue to support."

Asked for clarification on this statement, a board spokesperson replied, "Based on what the board knows now, it anticipates that a down-selection will be necessary." The spokesperson

Search

UC Faculty Associations

- UCLA Faculty Association
- UCSB Faculty Association
- UCSC Faculty Association
- UCB Faculty Association
- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

UC (1822) politics (1723) UC Regents (1709) health care (1281) State Budget (1191) governor (1046) UC budget crisis (909) UC-Berkeley (828) pension (639) diversity (620) pensions (588) tuition (518) admissions (485) athletics (439) CSU (377) transportation (363) UC-Davis (352) online education (333) ucrp (293) audio (287) UCOP (282) new hotel-conference center (281) UC enrollment (267) uc retirement (265) traffic (259) enrollment (239) UC-San Diego (227) community colleges (221) LAO (201) UC-Irvine (171) fund raising (154) UC-Santa Barbara (138) UC-Santa Cruz (133) ballot

also said the board looks forward to getting an update in May on the status of "partner contributions" to the projects. NSF has funded design and technology development work for each telescope but has not requested construction funds for either. Each telescope is far from covering their total costs through partner contributions, leading them to seek support from NSF.



The GMT's partner institutions have committed more than $850 million in cash and in-kind contributions to date toward a total project cost of $2.54 billion, according to a spokesperson for the project. The TMT's partners have contributed cash and in-kind contributions totalling $2.0 billion, according to a spokesperson for the TMT. The spokesperson did not offer an estimate of the total cost of the TMT, stating the amount is "dependent upon a number of factors, in particular the schedule." Construction of the GMT has already begun in Chile, but TMT construction on Mauna Kea in Hawaii has been paused since 2019 due to reservations from local community members who view the mountain as sacred. The TMT has considered using a site in the Canary Islands as an alternative.

The NSF board's action does not guarantee that the agency will seek construction funds for even one of the telescopes, and the ultimate contribution may be well less than $1.6 billion even if it proceeds. The agency is weighing proposals for other major scientific infrastructure projects both across other disciplines and within astronomy itself, which has struggled in recent years to cover the operations costs of new telescopes. The ultimate arbiter of what will be funded is Congress, which controls NSF's construction budget on a project-by-project basis...

Full story at https://ww2.aip.org/fyi/nsf-likely-to-drop-one-of-two-giant-telescopes-from-consideration-for-construction-funds.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM No comments:



Labels: politics, UC

Saturday, April 13, 2024

The Missing Money

We now have data on cash receipts of the state's general fund from the state controller for the first nine months of the fiscal year, i.e., through March. Of course, more will depend on April when income taxes are due. However, the first nine months show the basic problem the state is facing.

When the current state budget was enacted, the projection was that the state would receive $169 billiion July-March. By the time the governor made his budget proposal for next fiscal year in January, the estimate had been cut to $146 billion, a big drop. But even that number appears



to be an overestimate. Actual receipts were $140 billion. Most of the drop is accounted for by the personal income tax and corporate tax.

Still, the state is not in the kind of emergency situation it was in back in 2009 when it ran out of cash to pay its liabilities and handed out IOUs. It is still sitting on unused cash resources of $86 bilion so there won't be a need for borrowing from external financial markets and there won't be IOUs. But there will be stringency in whatever budget is enacted for 2024-25.

You can find the latest controller's statement at:

https://sco.ca.gov/Files-ARD/CASH/March2024StatementofGeneralFundCashReceiptsandDisbursements.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM No comments:   

Labels: controller, governor, legislature, State Budget

Friday, April 12, 2024

Harvard Goes Back to Testing



From the Washington Post: *Harvard College will require applicants to submit standardized test scores once again, becoming the latest Ivy League school to reinstate the requirement after making the choice optional during the pandemic. The university had previously said it would remain test-optional through the 2025-2026 application cycle. But on Thursday, it said students applying to the college for fall 2025 admission — hoping to join the graduating class of 2029 — will now have to submit standardized test scores as part of their admissions package.*

Harvard becomes the latest Ivy League school to reinstate the requirement after making the choice optional during the pandemic. Dartmouth College, Yale and Brown universities announced similar changes in recent weeks, after officials cited data suggesting that SAT and

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

ACT scores were the best predictors of students' academic performance at their schools — and that making the tests optional could further disadvantage applicants from more challenging backgrounds...

Full story at https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2024/04/11/harvard-reinstates-sat-act-admissions-requirement/.

Note that the UC Regents were also told by an Academic Senate report "that making the tests optional could further disadvantage applicants from more challenging backgrounds." But they abolished the tests anyway.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:30 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, Brown University, Dartmouth, Harvard, UC, UC Regents, Yale

The FAFSA Drama Continues - Part 11 (California workaround)



There is (partial) good news for California students with FAFSA troubles. From the San Francisco Chronicle: *The high school students who have been hardest hit by the federal government's botched overhaul of its college financial aid application now have a workaround to receive state grants — but not federal money — California education officials announced Tuesday. The government's recent effort to streamline the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, created a glitch that left tens of thousands of high school seniors in California and across the country unable to complete their applications. The students most often blocked are citizens and legal residents whose parents have no Social Security number.*

Students need the FAFSA to apply for federal Pell grants. The California Student Aid Commission also uses those applications to determine students' eligibility for state aid, known as Cal Grants. Now, first-time applicants who can't fill out their FAFSA can apply for state aid separately, using the California Dream Act Application "as a short-term measure until they are able to access and complete a FAFSA," the student aid commission and the state's three public secondary school systems — the University of California, California State University and the California Community Colleges — jointly announced.

May 2 is the deadline...

Full story at https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/fafsa-fiasco-fix-lets-california-students-get-cal-19394119.php.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM No comments: 

Labels: admissions

Thursday, April 11, 2024

New Berkeley Chancellor - Part 2 (things not said & what about UCLA?)



The appointment of Richard Lyons as the incoming chancellor of UC-Berkeley which we noted yesterday included various statements by him and others. You'll find references below. Notably, incoming chancellor Lyons didn't touch on the demonstrations taking place at Berkeley or the People's Park issue.

We also do not know where the search for a new UCLA chancellor - a process going on at the same time as the Berkeley search - now stands. The next regular Regents meetings are in mid-May. Of course, there is no guarantee there will be a UCLA candidate by then. In addition, if someone is chosen earlier, the Regents could schedule an off-cycle meeting for the formal selection.

The Regents are meeting behind closed doors today to elect officers and make appointments to standing committees for 2024-25.*

From California Today (NY Times):

*...Though Berkeley is a public institution with a storied history of protest, [outgoing chancellor] Christ has largely avoided becoming the center of similar controversies. But recent incidents have tested the university. On Tuesday, video showed a law professor, Catherine Fisk, trying to grab a microphone and cellphone from a student who had stood up to speak on behalf of Palestinians at a student dinner that Fisk was hosting at her home with her husband, Erwin Chemerinsky, the law school dean.***

Pro-Palestinian groups said that the student, Malak Afaneh, who belongs to Berkeley Law Students for Justice in Palestine, was assaulted and that her free speech rights were violated. Chemerinsky said in a statement that the student's actions were an inappropriate attempt to turn a social occasion at his home into a forum for political speech. At a news conference after the board's vote, Lyons did not discuss that incident or other recent protests, noting that he had not yet taken over as chancellor.

But he said that campus officials were considering how to balance the need to protect free speech and keep Berkeley an open "marketplace for ideas" against rules to ensure that protests and speech do not infringe upon the rights of others...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/11/us/richard-lyons-uc-berkeley-chancellor.html.

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Official announcement by UC President Drake:

https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/university-california-president-michael-v-drake-md-announces-appointment-new-uc-berkeley

Video of vote of the Regents and statement to the Regents by Prof. Lyons:

https://ia600300.us.archive.org/6/items/regents-board-public-comment-4-10-2024/Regents-Board%20UC-Berkeley%20chancellor%204-10-2024.mp4

Detailed CV of Prof. Lyons:

https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/default/files/2024-04/lyons-CV.pdf

===

*https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/april24/noms.pdf.

**The video is at:

https://ia601406.us.archive.org/35/items/a-laugh-a-tear-a-mitzvah/UC-B%20Law%20Dean%20Chemerinsky%20vs%20anti-Israel%20protesters%20at%20home%20dinner%20for%20students%204-9-2024.mp4. For details, see:

https://reason.com/volokh/2024/04/10/berkeley-students-post-anti-semitic-cartoons-disrupt-dinner-at-dean-chemerinskys-home/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 8:48 AM No comments:

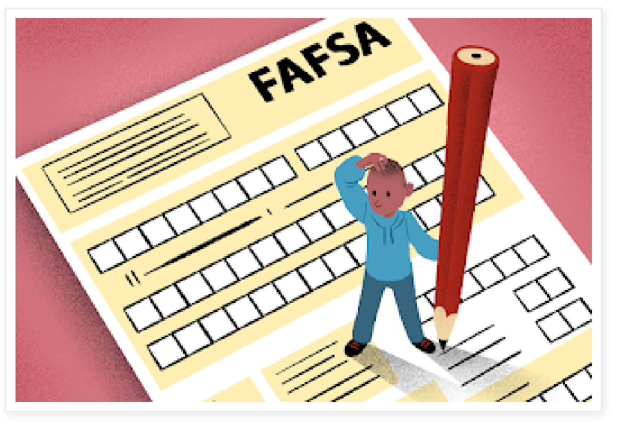
Labels: UC Regents, UC-Berkeley, UCLA

The FAFSA Drama Continues - Part 10 (data drop)

From Inside Higher Ed: *As of March 29, 40 percent fewer high school students had completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid than they did by that date in 2023, according to newly released data from the Department of Education, a massive drop caused largely by the new form's disastrous rollout.*

The new federal data is the first to separate completion rates as a subset of submission rates, according to the National College Attainment Network. FAFSA submissions, which include





forms that still need corrections, are down 27 percent year-over-year.

The 13 percent difference between completions and submissions implies a larger-than-usual number of form errors this year, which the department said cannot be corrected until processing is completed in mid-April. That could set back colleges' already-delayed timelines on sending financial aid packages, and give students even less leeway to decide which college to attend based on accurate cost information...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2024/04/09/fafsa-completion-down-40-percent.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:   

Labels: admissions

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

New Berkeley Chancellor



As noted in the prior post, the Regents placed on their agenda today an announcement of the new Berkeley chancellor. It turns out to be an internal candidate, Prof. Richard Lyons, and economist of the Haas business school (at a base salary of about $946,000, some of which is to be privately funded).

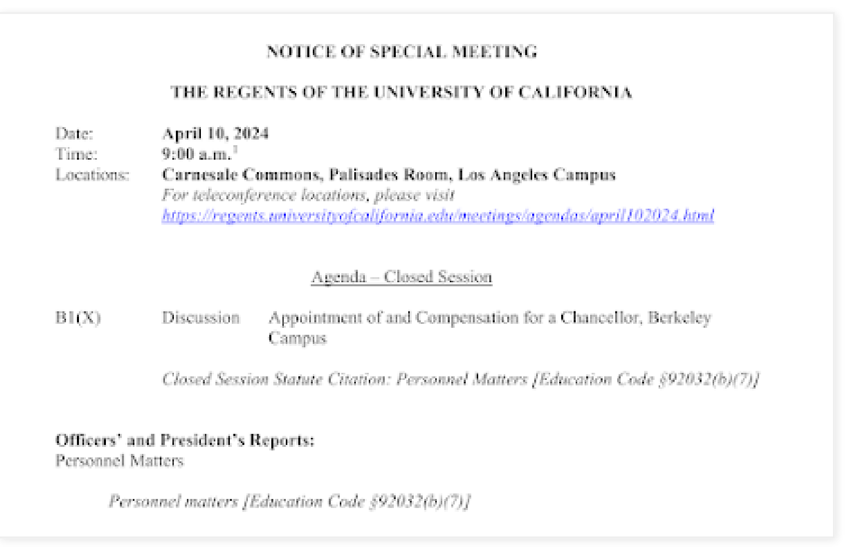
Richard Lyons is Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Innovation & Entrepreneurship Officer, and former Dean of Berkeley Haas. His research is on exchange rates, but from a "micro" perspective rather than the traditional "macro" perspective. The micro approach uses data on transactions in currency markets to address how this market absorbs new information. It is both "information theoretic" and quite applied in that it addresses the phenomenon (price determination) at its source. His most recent work in this area is on stablecoins, which are cryptocurrencies pegged to other currencies like the US dollar or hard assets like gold. He is also writing more now on innovation

and how cultures of innovation can be developed in universities and other institutions around the world.

Source: https://vcresearch.berkeley.edu/faculty/rich-lyons.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 10:37 AM No comments:

New Berkeley Chancellor Announcement Today Seems Likely



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Date: **April 10, 2024**
Time: **9:00 a.m.**[1]
Locations: **Carnesale Commons, Palisades Room, Los Angeles Campus**
For teleconference locations, please visit
https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/agendas/april102024.html

Agenda – Closed Session

B1(X) Discussion Appointment of and Compensation for a Chancellor, Berkeley Campus

Closed Session Statute Citation: Personnel Matters [Education Code §92032(b)(7)]

Officers' and President's Reports:
Personnel Matters

Personnel matters [Education Code §92032(b)(7)]

The item on the Regents (closed) agenda today indicates that a new Berkeley chancellor has been selected.

Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/april24/specialx.pdf.



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Date: **April 10, 2024**
Time: **Upon adjournment of the closed session Board meeting**[1]
Locations: **Carnesale Commons, Palisades Room, Los Angeles Campus**
For teleconference locations, please visit
https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/agendas/april102024.html

Agenda – Open Session

B1 Action Approval of the Appointment of and Compensation for a Chancellor, Berkeley Campus as Discussed in Closed Session

This item from the open session that follows indicates the name will be revealed.

Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/april24/special2.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:   

Labels: UC Regents, UC-Berkeley

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

New Graduate Real Estate Degree



From the Bruin: *The Luskin School of Public Affairs has been approved to launch its new Master of Real Estate Development program starting in the fall of 2025. The 11-month program, which was first proposed three years ago, will give students graduate-level professional training in real estate and urban development, said Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, the Luskin School's interim dean. Students will focus on the basics of real estate but also more contemporary topics such as housing affordability, climate change architecture and building for communities of color.*

The program will have an emphasis on practical knowledge such as development, real estate finance and legal and market analysis skills... Over two-thirds of the program's faculty will be industry experts...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2024/04/07/luskin-school-of-public-affairs-to-launch-master-of-real-estate-development-program.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:   

Labels: UCLA

The times, they are a'changing

Collective bargaining is proposed as a shield against antitrust liability in college sports. Scroll down in this item from The Athletic (NY Times):

One league overseeing college football's highest level. No more conferences as we've known them. Playoff berths being decided solely on the field. Promotion and relegation for smaller



schools. Players being paid directly. NIL and the transfer portal, managed. A group of influential leaders wants to make all this happen soon — and they are pitching it as the best way forward for a sport they believe needs saving.

Several college presidents, Roger Goodell's primary lieutenant at the NFL and some of sports' top executives have devised a plan — dubbed by outsiders as a "Super League" — to completely transform college football, those involved in the group ***"College Sports Tomorrow" (CST)*** *told The Athletic. Although the plan has drawn skepticism from within the sport's current institutions, the people behind the ideas believe they must be implemented...*

Thus far, the group is struggling to gain traction with the schools that would play in their proposed "Super League." The ACC board of directors heard a presentation from the group in February. However, planned dinners with administrators from the Big Ten, SEC and Big 12 all were called off. Spokespersons for the Big Ten and SEC said commissioners Petitti and Greg Sankey, respectively, have not met with Perna's group.

Leagues have been hesitant and canceled meetings so as not to upset their current broadcast partners, including ESPN and Fox, according to one executive briefed on the commissioners' thoughts. Chief among the obstacles this new venture faces are the billions of dollars in TV deals that all the top conferences have locked in with the major networks: ESPN/ABC, Fox, NBC and CBS...

College administrators are particularly concerned about the House v. NCAA class-action suit in Northern California, seeking NIL revenue denied to athletes prior to 2021 rule changes. If the plaintiffs are successful, the NCAA and the power conferences could be on the hook for billions in damages. The House case is one of several potentially crippling federal antitrust suits related to athlete employment rights and NIL compensation...

While the CST model would eliminate the longtime conference structure for football, it would create one entity to negotiate with a prospective union that would represent the players on NIL, transfer portal and salary structure rules. This embrace of collective bargaining could allow it to avoid the antitrust issues that have limited the NCAA's ability to enforce its own rules...

Full story at https://theathletic.com/5383639/2024/04/03/college-football-super-league-cst-realignment/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics

Monday, April 8, 2024

Maybe not Subway to the Sea, but at least Subway to UC



There is a push to get the subway connection to UCLA and the VA ready in time for the 2028 Olympics in LA. From the LA Times:

...The extension of the D Line, also known as the Purple Line, is taking place in three phases in sections that are roughly 3 miles long each. Section 1, which will include the Wilshire/La Brea Station, Wilshire/Fairfax Station and Wilshire/La Cienega Station, is slated to open first, in 2025. Section 2, consisting of the Wilshire/Rodeo Station and Century City/Constellation Station, is set to open in 2026. Section 3 is expected to be completed in 2027, with Westwood/UCLA and Westwood/VA Hospital stations...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-04-02/underground-tunneling-complete-for-metros-d-line-expansion-to-the-westside.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 2:30 AM No comments:  

Looks like a new scam aimed at ucla.edu email addresses

Sync Messages.

We noticed that your email : [redacted]ucla.edu failed to sync messages to your inbox as of 3/31/2024 7:41:58 p.m...

This is due to a server error on your mailbox.

Review these messages and choose what happens to them.

Review Messages

Messages older than 10 days will be removed

Thank you,
[redacted]Administrator

If you get one of these, I suggest you don't click on "review messages." Just delete it. Yours truly has gotten a couple of these notices.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 2:00 AM No comments:  

Labels: email fraud, UCLA

Sunday, April 7, 2024

More on BREIT



From Yahoo Finance: *BREIT paid out more than $2.8 billion in distributions during 2023, exceeding cash flows of $2.7 billion, according to its annual report. The fund's performance was hit by investor requests for their money back, which prompted it to sell assets and keep cash in liquid investments. Distributions included both payouts in BREIT stock and those that elect to receive cash.*

Blackstone Inc. launched BREIT in 2017 as it looked to branch out to retail investors, quickly building it into a $70 billion giant. But the rapid rise in interest rates spooked investors, leading the fund to restrict redemptions from November 2022 until February of this year when it fully paid out withdrawal requests. The fund's net asset value had fallen back to about $60.7 billion as of the end of last year...

Full story at https://finance.yahoo.com/news/blackstone-breit-paid-more-generated-081438301.html.

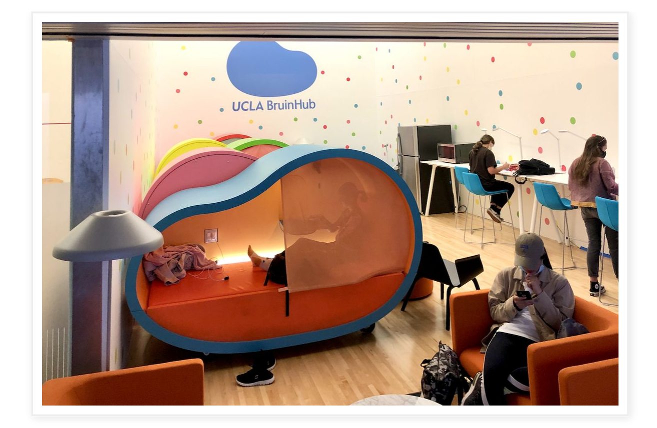
As blog readers will know, UC invested in $4.5 billion in BREIT in return for a high return "guarantee" as a kind of bailout as the fund was being drained by withdrawal requests. As we noted, the Regents' Investment Committee - with the exception of one member - seemed mainly concerned about whether BREIT was a good residential landlord and not about the financial risks entailed.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:30 AM No comments:   

Labels: endowment, pension, UC Regents

Rediscovered

Back in 2021, the LA Times discovered the BruinHub program for commuters.* The Regents heard a report about the program at their last meeting.** Now the LA Times - perhaps because of the Regents' discussion - has rediscovered the program:



...To alleviate stresses on student commuters who — unlike campus resident students — have no place to settle down and can feel isolated, UCLA is creating "BruinHubs" where they can rest and study before and after class. The hubs are complete with napping pods, study tables, charging stations, snacks, a microwave and a refrigerator to store meals for their long day on campus...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-04-01/ucla-creates-hubs-for-student-commuters-avoiding-rush-hour.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2021/10/if-youre-just-waking-up.html.

**https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/03/preliminary-regents-agenda-march-20-21.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM No comments:   

Labels: UC Regents, UCLA

Saturday, April 6, 2024

The FAFSA Drama Continues - Part 9 (more delay)

From Inside Higher Ed: *The U.S. Education Department released additional details Tuesday on the scope and impact of the tax issue flagged last week by financial aid officers, the latest calculation error to beset the beleaguered rollout of the new FAFSA.*

Five percent of all previously processed Institutional Student Information Records, or ISIRs, will have to be reprocessed, the department said—a little over 320,000 forms. The issues stemmed from inconsistencies in tax data as it was transferred from the IRS to the department via the IRS's data exchange, leading to miscalculations in student aid indexes and causing affected students' forms to reflect less aid eligibility than they should.



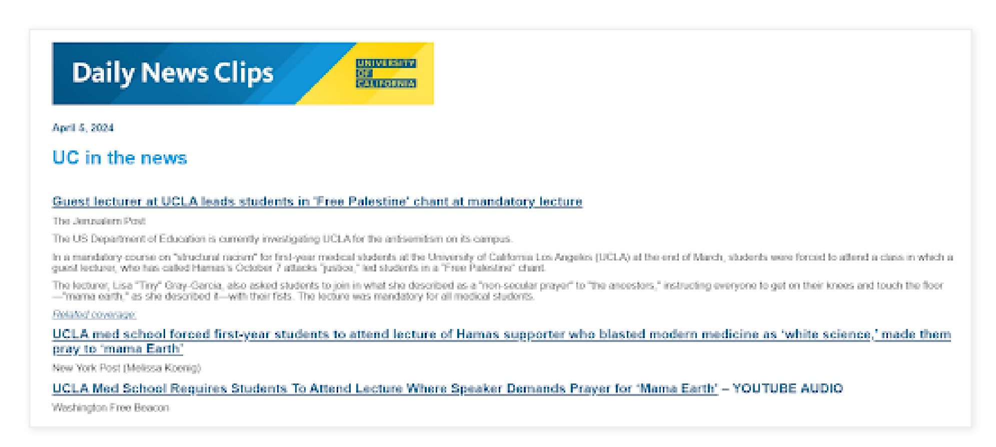
Most of those inconsistencies were relevant only for the roughly 15 percent of FAFSA applicants who qualify for education tax credits. Five percent of those ISIRs were negatively affected by the error, and the department will reprocess them; the other 10 percent, which likely show more aid than students should be eligible for, will be left to colleges to resolve—or not...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2024/04/03/five-percent-fafsas-will-have-be-reprocessed-ed-says.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:30 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions

Were there any adults in the room when this event was planned?



Daily News Clips

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

April 5, 2024

UC in the news

Guest lecturer at UCLA leads students in 'Free Palestine' chant at mandatory lecture

The Jerusalem Post

The US Department of Education is currently investigating UCLA for the antisemitism on its campus.

In a mandatory course on "structural racism" for first-year medical students at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) at the end of March, students were forced to attend a class in which a guest lecturer, who has called Hamas's October 7 attacks "justice," led students in a "Free Palestine" chant.

The lecturer, Lisa "Tiny" Gray-Garcia, also asked students to join in what she described as a "non-secular prayer" to "the ancestors," instructing everyone to get on their knees and touch the floor —"mama earth," as she described it—with their fists. The lecture was mandatory for all medical students.

Related coverage:

UCLA med school forced first-year students to attend lecture of Hamas supporter who blasted modern medicine as 'white science,' made them pray to 'mama Earth'

New York Post (Melissa Koenig)

UCLA Med School Requires Students To Attend Lecture Where Speaker Demands Prayer for 'Mama Earth' – YOUTUBE AUDIO

Washington Free Beacon

Given all the worrying about the UCLA "brand" and the UCLA Health "brand" in particular, is there anyone concerned about how it came about that the event described above was OK'd and by whom? The links on the image above are:

https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-795496; https://nypost.com/2024/04/04/us-news/ucla-made-med-students-attend-lecture-given-by-hamas-supporter/; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOOqAHLuSMQ.

UCOP Daily News Clips goes to major UC administrators, so probably someone on high is going to be asking questions. And maybe there will be mentions at the upcoming Regents' Health Services Committee at UCLA (April 10).

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:15 AM No comments:  

Labels: health care, UCLA

More Title IX and the Courts



Newsweek carries an article about a Title IX (sexual assault) case from Johns Hopkins University in which a student was "convicted" and suspended, but won a court decision that essentially said due process had not been provided. Oddly, the article focuses on the fact that when the US Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal by the university, Justice Amy Coney Barrett recused herself but did not say why.

However, the "why" was obvious.
She had participated in a lower court's opinion in the case before becoming a member of the Supreme Court.

What is of interest in the case was it provides yet another example of something we have discussed in the past: external courts look for due process as they understand due process in evaluating university procedures. And we have noted that UC, and many other universities with union contracts, have long had grievance and arbitration procedures that external courts will defer to because - while such procedures may be less formal than those of courts, they provide basic due process. From Newsweek:

...In a decision siding with the [accused] student, the appeals court agreed that the university violated his right to due process and engaged in gender discrimination under Title IX. In an opinion and order authored by Barrett, the panel said it was "plausible" that Purdue's investigation panel "chose to believe Jane [Doe] because she is a woman and to disbelieve John because he is a man." ...

Full story at https://www.newsweek.com/supreme-court-refuses-take-amy-coney-barrett-case-1885574.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Johns Hopkins

Friday, April 5, 2024

Couldn't help noticing...

Category	Amount
Reductions	$3.6 billion
Revenue/Borrowing	$5.2 billion
Delays	$3.1 billion
Fund Shifts	$3.4 billion
Deferrals	$2.1 billion

Note: totals off due to rounding

The Early Action agreement includes, by category:

Reductions – $3.6 billion – Significant Issues Include:

- Salary Savings Sweep from Vacant Positions - $762.5 million.
- Withdraw Elimination of Two-week Fee-For-Service Checkwrite Hold - $532.5 million.
- School Facility Aid Program - $500 million.
- CalWORKs Single Allocation Partial Reversion - $336.6 million.
- UCLA Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy Project - $300 million.
- Watershed Climate Resilience - $206.5 million.
- Broadband - Loan Loss Reserve - $150 million.
- Climate Innovation Program - $100 million.
- Foreclosure Intervention Housing Preservation Program - $85 million.

Excerpt from https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Early-Action-Agreement-Overview-.pdf

The governor and legislative leaders reached an interim deal in response to the current state budget situation. Some of the items appear to be things proposed by the governor in his January budget proposal for 2024-25, including the "deferral" of the supposedly guaranteed UC budget increases in the "compact" with the governor. However, among the reductions - not deferrals - we noted $300 million for the UCLA Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy Project. As blog readers will know, UCLA spent $700 million to buy the Westside Pavillion for this Project. Exactly, where the $300 million fits into this story is unclear.

Possibly, there will be some clarification of what is entailed at the April 10th meeting of the Regents' Health Services Committee at UCLA.

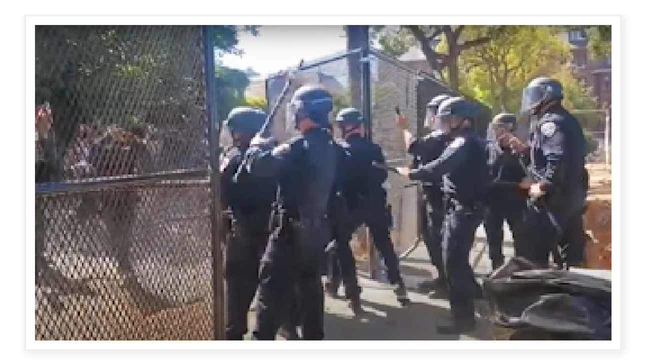
Posted by California Policy Issues at 10:11 AM No comments:



Labels: governor, health care, legislature, State Budget, UC budget crisis, UC Regents

Probable Go-Ahead for People's Park Student Housing

From the San Francisco Chronicle: *A state Supreme Court hearing [this past] Wednesday left little doubt that the University of California, with a boost from state lawmakers, will be allowed to build housing for students in historic People's Park despite objections from some of its*



neighbors. Questioned by several justices, Thomas Lippe, a lawyer for neighborhood groups opposing the project, conceded that a bill that sped through the Legislature with no dissenting votes last September and was signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom removed legal barriers to the $312 million project. It would include housing for about 1,100 students and for more than 100 homeless people who camp on the 2.8-acre site south of the Berkeley campus.

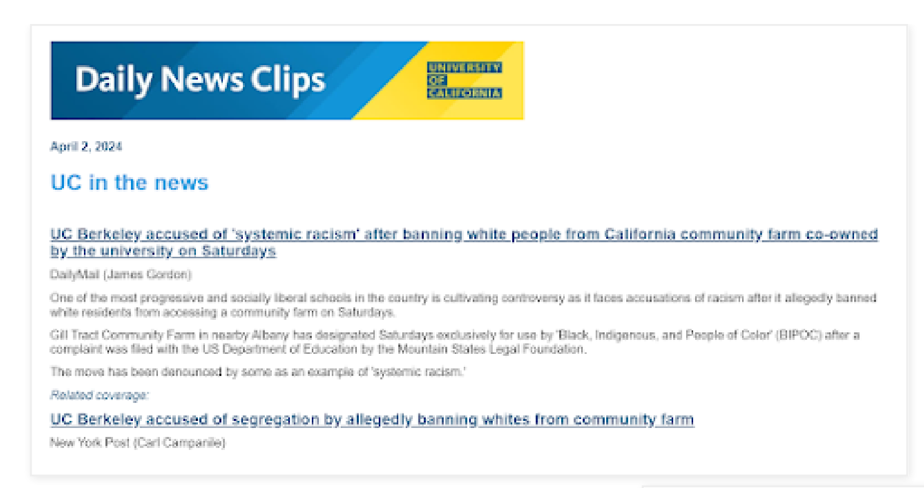
But Lippe asked the court not to dismiss the lawsuit that had challenged the housing plan, and instead to use the case to require the university to consider the local impact of its separate long-range plans to add thousands of students. UC Berkeley provides housing for only 23% of its 45,000 students, and the neighborhood groups say future expansion will increase noise, traffic and environmental hazards outside the campus.

...In response, the university's lawyer, Nicole Gordon, said the September legislation, AB1307 by Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, D-Oakland, was intended to nullify a state appeals court ruling that UC Berkeley must consider alternative housing plans that would cause less neighborhood noise than the People's Park project...

Full story at https://www.sfchronicle.com/eastbay/article/people-s-park-dorms-likely-proceed-state-court-19382411.php.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:30 AM No comments:  

UC-Berkeley's Gil Tract Farm



Daily News Clips

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

April 2, 2024

UC in the news

UC Berkeley accused of 'systemic racism' after banning white people from California community farm co-owned by the university on Saturdays

DailyMail (James Gordon)

One of the most progressive and socially liberal schools in the country is cultivating controversy as it faces accusations of racism after it allegedly banned white residents from accessing a community farm on Saturdays.

Gill Tract Community Farm in nearby Albany has designated Saturdays exclusively for use by 'Black, Indigenous, and People of Color' (BIPOC) after a complaint was filed with the US Department of Education by the Mountain States Legal Foundation.

The move has been denounced by some as an example of 'systemic racism.'

Related coverage:

UC Berkeley accused of segregation by allegedly banning whites from community farm

New York Post (Carl Campanile)

Saturday is [redacted] and I was thinking of coming to the farm. 11:54 AM

I was curious if I will know many people or if they will mostly be folks who are new to me.

It's doesn't matter if I know them or not. I was just curious. 11:55 AM

[redacted]

Saturdays are exclusively BIPOC. Exceptions have only been made for events that are BIPOC-centered and with plenty of advance notice and planning.

I trust you stand in solidarity with upholding boundaries around that safe and sacred space.

Effie and/or Paul are good folks to reach out to if you'd like more context about Saturdays. 55m

Yours truly spotted these two items (above) on Tuesday's UC Daily News Clips.* So he went to the actual Title VI complaint filed by the Mountain States Legal Foundation with the US Dept. of Education.** The evidence submitted is an undated text message exchange between two unnamed individuals, one of whom references an "Effie" and a "Paul" as being able to explain Farm rules. No last names were provided but there are two individuals with those names that seem to be associated with the Farm.

"Paul" is said to be a volunteer. It is unclear whether he is in a position to make rules for the Farm or, for that matter, who does make the rules. "Effie" describes herself as self-employed on Facebook. So it is unclear whether she is in a position to make rules for the Farm.

Perhaps the university needs to make clear who is in charge, what rules there are, and what mechanism there is to ensure the rules comply with federal and state requirements.

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*https://nypost.com/2024/03/31/us-news/uc-berkeley-accused-of-segregation-by-allegedly-banning-whites-from-community-farm/; https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13257943/UC-Berkeley-accused-systemic-racism-banning-white-people-community-farm.html. Note that there is a long history of controversy regarding farming at the Gil Tract. See our blog post from 2012 at:

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2012/05/e-i-e-i-out-berkeley-farm-invasion.html.

**https://mslegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Gill-Tract-OCR-Complaint-Final.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM No comments:  

Labels: diversity, UC-Berkeley

Thursday, April 4, 2024

A buried lede on community colleges and transfers?



EdSource carries an article on enrollment fraud at community colleges. Apparently, phony students apply, get financial aid, and then disappear. Bad actors now use bots to create phony students. Various efforts are being made to spot the fraud and block phony applications. However, there is a buried lede in the story that may create problems for UC:

"What we're hearing is that (fraud) is happening more widespread than people are letting on, but people just have their heads in the sand because it looks good to have your enrollment going up," said [Todd] Coston [an associate vice chancellor] with the Kern Community College District.

Full story at https://calmatters.org/education/higher-education/2024/04/financial-aid-fraud/.

This line is something of a buried lede. UC has various enrollment targets for transfers from community colleges. But these targets are in part based on assumptions about community college enrollment. If enrollment numbers are inflated by fraud, it will be that much harder for UC to meet those goals.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:30 AM No comments:  

Labels: admissions, community colleges, UC, UC enrollment

What the Governor was doing in the first quarter

As blog readers will know, we maintain an archive of gubernatorial videos on a quarterly basis. Included are statements by the governor, news clips, and other related items.

You can find this collection for the period January-March 2024 at:

https://archive.org/details/newsom-1-1-24-new-year.

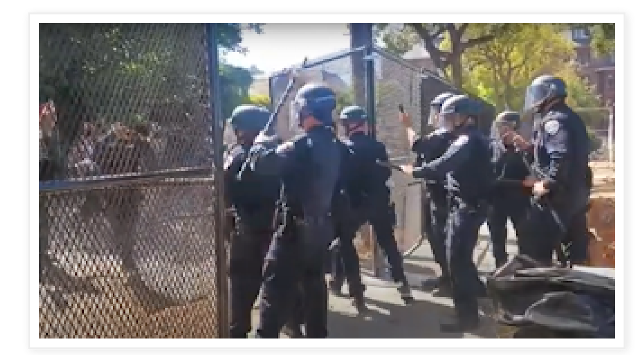


Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM   No comments:  

Labels: governor, politics 

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

The People's Park Saga Continues - Part 2



From KQED: *The California Supreme Court will hear oral arguments [today] in a case brought by two groups opposed to UC Berkeley's plan to build student housing at People's Park. The case hinges on whether the court considers noise from future residents a form of pollution and whether housing developers should be held to stricter standards when it comes to studying alternative sites for proposed projects. Depending on how the court rules, it could empower community members to demand that developers do extra studies before building new housing, potentially lengthening an already tedious process.*

"If a person is vehemently opposed to a project, they can go to court and say 'tell them to do more studies,'" said Chris Elmendorf, a professor at UC Davis specializing in land-use law. "Maybe the court agrees, or maybe the court disagrees, but while the project is in court, it's effectively on hold." ...

Full story at https://www.kqed.org/news/11981358/uc-berkeleys-plan-to-build-housing-on-peoples-park-heads-to-california-supreme-court.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:30 AM No comments:  

Labels: enrollment, UC-Berkeley

Our Alternative Route to the Blog



Each quarter, we provide an alternative route for reading the blog. You can read it in a book-type format for the first quarter of 2024, or download it as a pdf at https://archive.org/details/ucla-faculty-association-blog-first-quarter-2024. In that format, of course, all audio, video, and animated gif components are omitted. Your choice.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Hopefully, you didn't ignore the email from Experian yesterday...

...or think it was an April Fool's Day prank.

You should have received an email on April 1 from Experian, the credit rating company, inviting you to sign up for credit monitoring, courtesy of UC. As we previously noted, prior UC coverage after a major data breach was expiring. The new coverage continues the monitoring.

See our prior posts for more information.*

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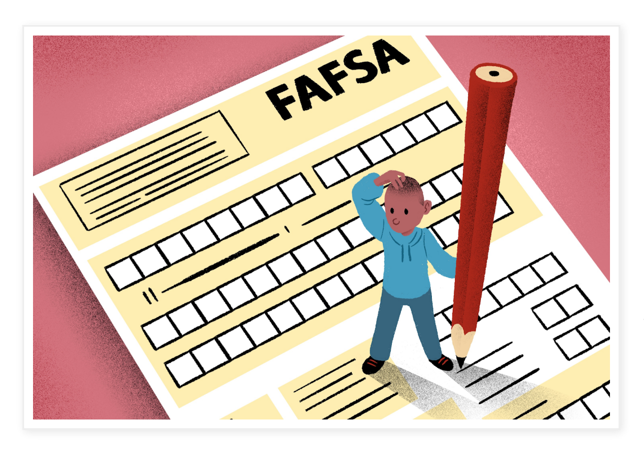
*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/03/reminder-wait-for-your-april-fools-day.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/03/maybe-starting-with-email-on-april-1.html.



Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:30 AM No comments:  

Labels: email fraud, UC

The FAFSA Drama Continues - Part 8 (legislative request)



From Politico: *California lawmakers [have] urged the state's public universities to further delay college decision day as federal aid glitches continue to loom over the college admissions cycle. The University of California and California State University systems have already pushed back the deadline by which students must commit to enrolling from May 1 to May 15, and some CSU campuses have delayed the deadline even further. In a letter, 35 state legislators asked the systems to push back decision day until June 1 as dozens of universities in other states have done.*

...It's the latest effort by California lawmakers to blunt the impact of the U.S. Department of Education's issue-ridden rollout of a simplified Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill Monday that extended the deadline to apply for state scholarships in response to the issues, which have included processing delays at the Education Department, problems with the online form and recent errors in calculating student aid.

UC spokesperson Ryan King said the ten campus system does not have plans to push back its deadline. "A May 15 commitment deadline for first-year students ensures that students have ample time to secure housing, visit campuses, and prepare for a successful college transition in the fall," King said in a statement. "It further supports core campus operations including managing orientation schedules, processing of visa, and contacting and enrolling waitlisted students. Should our deadline change, we will immediately inform prospective students and their families." The CSU did not immediately respond to a request for comment...

Full story at https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2024/03/california-lawmakers-press-universities-to-delay-decision-day-again-00149467 and UCOP Daily News Clips.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM No comments:   

Labels: admissions, CSU, UC

Monday, April 1, 2024

Two Regents Committees Are Meeting at UCLA: April 10, 2024



An off-cycle meeting of two committees of the Regents is scheduled at UCLA Carnesale Commons for April 10: **Health Services** and **Academic and Students Affairs**. A preliminary agenda for both is now available:

Agenda: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 UCLA, Carnesale Commons

9:30 am **Health Services Committee** - (open session- includes public comment)

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of January 24 and February 14, 2024

Public Comment Period (30 minutes)

Upon end of open session: **Health Services Committee** - (closed session)

Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of January 24 and February 14, 2024 and the Joint Meeting of the Health Services Committee and the Finance and Capital Strategies Committee of January 24, 2024

H1(X) Action: Endorsement of the UCSF Clinical and Life Sciences Building, San Francisco Campus

H2(X) Discussion: Challenges in Medi-Cal Contracting

H3(X) Discussion: UC Health Litigation Update

H4(X) Discussion: Market-Based Salary Adjustment for President – UCSF Health Care Network/Chief Market Development Officer and Senior Vice President, UCSF Health, San Francisco Campus

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Upon end of closed session:

Health Services Committee - (open session)

H4 Action: Approval of Market-Based Salary Adjustment for President – UCSF Health Care Network/Chief Market Development Officer and Senior Vice President, UCSF Health, San Francisco Campus as Discussed in Closed Session

H5 Discussion: Update from the Executive Vice President of UC Health: Academic Medicine at the Crossroads of Mission and Market Forces

H6 Discussion: UC Health's Role as an Essential Medi-Cal Provider

H7 Discussion: Access to Sexual Assault Forensic Exams, Other Medical Options, and Holistic Support at the University of California for Victims of Sexual Assault

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2:15 pm **Academic and Student Affairs Committee** - (open session)

A1 Action: Approval of Multi-Year Plans for Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition for Five Graduate Professional Degree Programs

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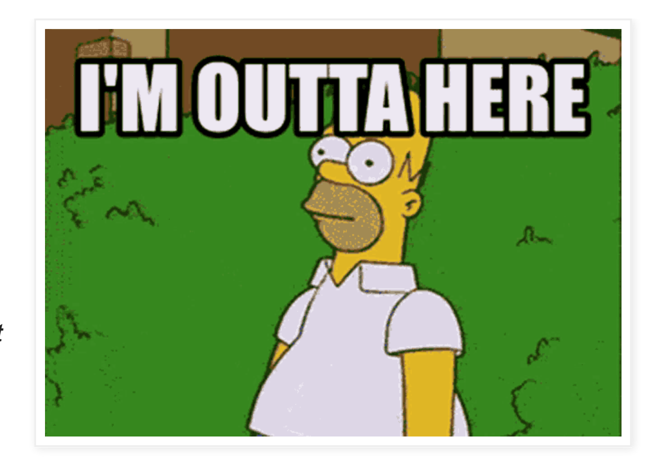
Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/agendas/april102024.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 10:13 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, UC Regents

I'm Outta Here

From the Yale Daily News:
University President Peter Salovey told the News that although he welcomes a conversation on free expression and institutional neutrality at Yale, he will leave it up to his successor to administratively steer the conversation on campus...



"Neutrality or the ability to speak out is going to affect the next president, so you would want the next president to be involved in that discussion … because it's going to be binding, but not on me," Salovey told the News. "I think we should have some kind of conversation about it on campus, probably through a committee, but it would be something I encourage my successor to do." ...

Full story at:
https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2024/03/29/not-on-me-salovey-to-let-successor-tackle-free-expression-at-yale/.

Well, that's Yale. I can't think of any UC chancellors who might be hoping to leave such matters to their soon-to-be-appointed successors. Or can I?

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM No comments:   

Labels: academic freedom, UC-Berkeley, UCLA, Yale

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Another Acquisition Completed

UCLA has been buying properties all around the LA area. Here is the latest - which, as we noted in January, was approved by the Regents at that time:*



UCLA Health has acquired the 260-bed West Hills Hospital and Medical Center and related assets from HCA Healthcare. The transaction, which was finalized on March 28, will help address hospital inpatient capacity needs, allowing UCLA Health to provide world-class care to

more patients across the region. The hospital has been renamed UCLA West Valley Medical Center.

"UCLA Health is focused on enhancing timely and equitable access to health care throughout greater Los Angeles, and this acquisition is an important milestone in our ongoing efforts," said Johnese Spisso, president of UCLA Health and CEO of the UCLA Hospital System. "We are pleased to welcome West Hills staff members as UCLA Health employees as we work together to serve the community. I thank HCA Healthcare leaders for their efforts in completing this transaction with us."

UCLA Health's immediate priority during the ownership transition is ensuring continuity of high-quality care for patients and a smooth transition as the hospital's operations are integrated with UCLA Health. UCLA Health has retained the vast majority of health care professionals and support staff previously employed by HCA Healthcare at West Hills.

The acquisition includes a 260-bed community hospital with seven operating rooms and a free-standing ambulatory surgery center in the west San Fernando Valley, about 21 miles northwest of UCLA's main campus in the Westwood area of Los Angeles. The hospital sits on a 14-acre site, providing future opportunities to expand care. UCLA Health operates primary and specialty care clinics in and near the San Fernando Valley and across Southern California and the Central Coast...

Full news release at https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/ucla-health-acquires-west-hills-hospital-and-medical-center.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/01/in-case-you-were-wondering.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 8:24 AM No comments:   

Labels: health care, UCLA

April Retirement Webinars



If you are thinking of retiring, here are the April webinars of potential interest on the UC retirement programs:

Preparing for Retirement

For UCRP members who are planning to retire within the next five years including active members and vested inactive members of UCRP.

Webinar will cover topics such as understanding UCRP pension benefits, retirement savings and retiree health coverage.

Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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The UC Retirement Process – From Start to Finish

For UCRP members who are planning to retire within the next 4-12 months. Webinar will explain everything you need to know about the retirement process, including required forms, important deadlines and helpful resources.

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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Retiree Health Benefits

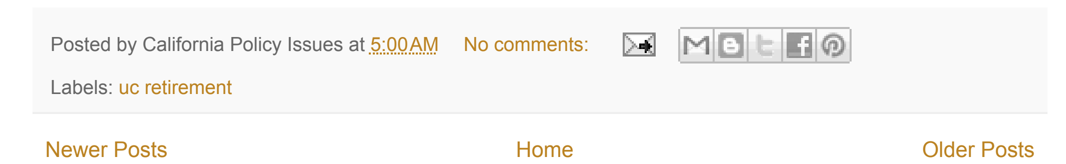
This webinar is intended for those considering retirement from UC within the next 4-12 months. Webinar will review in detail the eligibility rules for retiree health coverage, your health plan options including Medicare coordination, how to determine your premiums and commonly asked questions.

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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Sign-ups at https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/compensation-and-benefits/retirement-benefits/preparing-for-retirement-presentation/index.html.



Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:00 AM No comments:

Labels: uc retirement

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